

**Kentucky Department of Education  
Office of Assessment and Accountability  
Calculator Use Policy for State Testing  
(REVISED August 2015)**

**In order to create a test administration that provides every student with a fair and equitable assessment opportunity, KDE has developed a calculator policy. Following this policy will ensure that all students have a measure of their academic achievement that is comparable to all students across the state.**

The KDE calculator policy applies to all state assessments (e.g. K-PREP, KYOTE, KOSSA), excluding any ACT assessments. The ACT calculator policy applies to all ACT assessment products (End-of-Course, the ACT, ACT Compass, and ACT WorkKeys). These policies apply to all students, including those who receive test accommodations with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Program Services Plan (PSP) or 504 Plan.

In some rare instances, a student with an IEP, PSP or a 504 Plan might use a device not listed on the approved calculator list. The District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) must submit a written request to the Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) for permission allowing a student to use the device not included on the list. OAA will consider the request, which will include reviewing IEPs, PSPs or 504 plans to determine if the device is part of the plan and would provide an unfair advantage on state assessments.

**Prohibited Computer Applications, Programs and Documents**

During test administration, all applications, programs or documents built-in, created or downloaded on calculators are prohibited for use on state assessments. This includes all applications and programs with a computer algebra system (CAS)<sup>1</sup>. Some permitted calculators have suppression functions that disable applications and use of documents for testing purposes, such as Press to Test. If available, the suppression function may be used on permitted calculators to deactivate prohibited applications and programs<sup>2</sup>; however, all stored documents must be removed as well.

**Prohibited Calculators**

The following types of calculators are **prohibited**:

- calculators with built-in or downloaded computer algebra system functionality  
Prohibited calculators in this category include:
  - Texas Instruments: All model numbers that begin with **TI-89** or **TI-92** and the **TI- Nspire CAS**—Note: The TI-Nspire (non-CAS) is permitted.
  - Hewlett-Packard: HP Prime, HP 48GII and all model numbers that begin with HP 40G, HP 49G, or HP 50G

- Casio: fx-CP400 (ClassPad 400), Algebra fx 2.0, ClassPad 300 and ClassPad 330, and all model numbers that begin with CFX-9970G
- handheld, tablet, or laptop computers, including PDAs
- electronic writing pads or pen-input devices—Note: The Sharp EL 9600 is permitted.
- calculators built into cell phones or any other electronic communication devices
- calculators with a keypad (letter keys in QWERTY format)—Note: Letter keys not in QWERTY format are permitted.

### **Calculators Permitted with Modification**

The following types of calculators are **permitted, but only after they are modified as noted:**

- calculators that can hold programs or documents—Remove all documents and remove all programs that have computer algebra system functionality
- calculators with paper tape—Remove the tape
- calculators that make noise—Turn off the sound
- calculators with an infrared data port—Completely cover the infrared data port with heavy opaque material such as duct tape or electrician's tape (includes Hewlett-Packard HP 38G series, HP 39G series and HP 48G)
- calculators that have power cords—Remove all power/electrical cords

### **Permitted Calculators**

Students may use any four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator, as long as:

- ✓ It is not on the list of **Prohibited Calculators**.
- ✓ All applications, programs and documents have been removed or deactivated as described in the **Prohibited Computer Applications, Programs and Documents section**.
- ✓ Proctors have made necessary modifications based on the **Calculators Permitted with Modification section**.

<sup>1</sup>Calculators with a Computer Algebra System (CAS) are capable of producing symbolic results. These calculators can manipulate algebraic expressions, performing operations such as factor, expand and simplify. In addition, calculators with CAS can give answers in exact form without numerical approximations (Wikipedia). Some examples of applications with CAS functionalities: Zoom-Math, APP4MATH, F2K, Allmath and Polynomials All in One.

<sup>2</sup>School staff may need to assist students in reinstalling or reactivating suppressed applications after testing is complete.